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13th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am contacting you following the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK and abroad.

The advice is now '**Anyone with a "new, continuous" cough or high temperature is advised to self-isolate for seven days**'

We have had a number of families keep children home on the basis of this advice. (When there are symptoms these are recorded as ill on the register and reference to Corona V is noted on the attendance record.) We have also sent a small number of children home. As for brothers or sisters, we are not currently at the stage where family members are advised to stay home. Unless Public Health England guidance changes from Monday we would expect siblings to be in school if they show no symptoms.

Advice is unclear and everyone is being cautious, but if it turns out that if a cough *isn't* continuous and there are no other symptoms, self-isolation is not appropriate and the child may return to school. However, if a child coughs for a period at school they will be sent home. Obviously, contact 111 if symptoms deteriorate.

We like children to be learning so are in the process of setting up a page per year group on our website to upload activities and ideas for learning activities at home. In the meantime, children always benefit from reading and writing and illustrating stories.

The school has taken the following actions for infection control:

- Display infection control measure information posters around the school
- Enforce handwashing for at least 20 seconds with warm water and soap
 - On arrival at school
 - Before food preparation
 - Before eating any food, including snacks
- Hand sanitisers around school – e.g. near the touch screen sign in.
- Pupils and staff understand to cover their cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Request that pupils carry personal tissues and ensure tissue stock in classrooms
- Frequently touched objects and surfaces cleaned and disinfected more regularly
- Advice that those who have returned from category 1 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days self-isolate for 14 days before return to school
- Advice that those who have returned from category 2 specified countries/areas in the last 14 days stay at home if they develop symptoms – Category 1 and category 2 countries can be found on a government website
- Isolate any notably unwell person in a separate room and call NHS 111
- Keep community updated through Parent Pay emails and Facebook following guidance from Public Health England, the DfE and Lancashire County Council.

We request that all our community encourages good infection control practices at home, such as thorough handwashing, and remind children about how they can discourage the spread of infection. **Importantly, we need to remain calm for our children and remind them they are not in danger, rather we are taking action to protect vulnerable people such as the elderly.**

At the moment, we are continuing to hold assemblies and eat in the dining hall and Year 4 are continuing to practise a musical play to perform for parents in the last week of term, however, the advice to schools may change. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Sincerely,

John Ross, Headteacher.